

By the Committee on Infrastructure and Security

596-02013-20

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to emergency staging areas; creating  
3 s. 338.236, F.S.; authorizing the Department of  
4 Transportation to plan, design, and construct staging  
5 areas as part of the turnpike system for the intended  
6 purpose of staging supplies for prompt provision of  
7 assistance to the public in a declared state of  
8 emergency; requiring the department, in consultation  
9 with the Division of Emergency Management, to select  
10 sites for such areas; providing factors to be  
11 considered by the department and division in selecting  
12 sites; requiring the department to give priority  
13 consideration to placement of such staging areas in  
14 specified counties; authorizing the department to  
15 acquire property necessary for such staging areas;  
16 authorizing the department to authorize certain other  
17 uses of staging areas; requiring staging area projects  
18 to be included in the department's work program;  
19 providing an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23 Section 1. Section 338.236, Florida Statutes, is created to  
24 read:

25 338.236 Staging areas for emergencies.—The Department of  
26 Transportation may plan, design, and construct staging areas to  
27 be activated during a declared state of emergency at key  
28 geographic locations on the turnpike system. Such staging areas  
29 must be used for the staging of emergency supplies, such as

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30 water, fuel, generators, vehicles, equipment, and other related  
31 materials, to facilitate the prompt provision of emergency  
32 assistance to the public, and to otherwise facilitate emergency  
33 response and assistance, including evacuations, deployment of  
34 emergency-related supplies and personnel, and restoration of  
35 essential services.

36 (1) In selecting a proposed site for a designated staging  
37 area under this section, the department, in consultation with  
38 the Division of Emergency Management, must consider the extent  
39 to which such site:

40 (a) Is located in a geographic area that best facilitates  
41 the wide dissemination of emergency-related supplies and  
42 equipment;

43 (b) Provides ease of access to major highways and other  
44 transportation facilities;

45 (c) Is sufficiently large to accommodate the staging of a  
46 significant amount of emergency-related supplies and equipment;

47 (d) Provides space in support of emergency preparedness and  
48 evacuation activities, such as fuel reserve capacity;

49 (e) Could be used during nonemergency periods for  
50 commercial motor vehicle parking and for other uses; and

51 (f) Is consistent with other state and local emergency  
52 management considerations.

53  
54 The department must give priority consideration to placement of  
55 such staging areas in counties with a population of 200,000 or  
56 fewer, as determined by the most recent official estimate  
57 pursuant to s. 186.901, in which a multi-use corridor of  
58 regional economic significance, as provided in s. 338.2278, is

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59 located.

60 (2) The department may acquire property and property rights  
61 necessary for such staging areas as provided in s. 338.04.

62 (3) The department may authorize other uses of a staging  
63 area as provided in the Florida Transportation Code, including,  
64 but not limited to, for commercial motor vehicle parking to  
65 comply with federal hours-of-service off-duty requirements or  
66 sleeper berth requirements and for other vehicular parking to  
67 provide rest for drivers.

68 (4) Staging area projects must be included in the work  
69 program developed by the department pursuant to s. 339.135.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.